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P4 THINK

UNTIL MY 'NORMALCY' HAS COME

Home minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that Jammu and Kashmir will get full statehood "as soon as the situation becomes normal." Speaking at a virtual event where he released India's First "District Good Governance Index",

P5 THINK

EVERYBODY INTO THE METAVERSE! VIRTUAL REALITY BECKONS BIG TECH

The metaverse, one of the most buzzy terms of the tech industry, could be many things. It could be a virtual world where imagination is the only limit. Or it could be a less fantastical

P7 STATE

ADVISOR BHATNAGAR UNFURLS TRICOLOR AT SKCC SRINAGAR

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Wednesday unfurled tricolor on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day at the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium



Widom Quote!
Don't grieve. Anything you lose comes around in another form
— Rumi

NEWS DIGEST

Former PDP MLA Wagay Passes Away

SRINAGAR: Abdul Razaq Wagay, former PDP MLA from Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian constituency, died in his native village on Wednesday. The 80-year-old was ailing for long. "Abdul Razak (Wagay) Zawoor, former MLA Shopian, is no more. He lost the battle of his life today after" [More On P6](#)

Driver Killed As Truck Falls Into Gorge

SRINAGAR: A trucker was killed while another person was injured after the vehicle they were travelling in rolled down into a deep gorge in Ramban district on Wednesday evening. Reports said that a truck bearing registration number JK05A 8290 on way from Jammu towards Srinagar fell into a [More On P6](#)

Elderly Man Charred To Death

SRINAGAR: A 75-year-old man was charred to death in a fire incident in Sopore town of Baramulla district, officials said on Wednesday. They said the charred body of the septuagenarian identified as Habibullah Kanna (75) son of late Ghulam Mohammad Kanna of Noorbagh Sopore was recovered today. A police official said [More On P6](#)

Ladakh Logs 218 New Corona Cases

LEH: The COVID-19 death toll in Ladakh has climbed to 223 following a fatality in Kargil, while 218 fresh cases pushed the overall tally to 25,036 in the union territory, officials said on Wednesday. The number of active cases in Ladakh has gone up to 1,317, which includes 1,023 cases in Leh district and 294 cases in Kargil [More On P6](#)

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LG Slams Opponents For Spreading Rumours Of Demographic Change

Assures Land Owners, Farmers That New Changes Will Empower Them

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday slammed those inciting people by spreading "rumours" about "imaginary issues" like demographic changes in the union territory and said land reservation has been done on the pattern of mountainous states. Addressing the Republic Day function here, the Lt Governor said that the government will continue to march ahead with the "mantra of 4P - peace, progress, prosperity and people first" and urged all to take the pledge of eradicating terrorism and terror ecosystem perpetuated by the neighbouring country.

"Some people are inciting public by spreading rumours about demographic changes in Jammu and Kashmir. "There is a section in the society which has always been misleading the people about imaginary issues like demographic change, and on this pretext, the most hardworking and needy class of people



had been alienated in their own land and were deprived of using it as per their wishes or requirements," Sinha said.

He said that peace in Jammu and Kashmir is a prerequisite for a vibrant tourism sector, which of late has set new employment and revenue generation records. "The government is committed to building a strong Jammu and Kashmir and we will continue to march ahead with the

mantra of 4P - peace, progress, prosperity and people first.

"We are determined to ensure every single citizen of UT enjoys a prosperous and peaceful life," he said.

Braving inclement weather, contingents of police and paramilitary forces on Wednesday took part in the 73rd Republic Day celebrations here, officials said.

The Lieutenant Governor presided over [More On P6](#)

THERE IS A SECTION IN THE SOCIETY WHICH has always been misleading the people about imaginary issues like demographic change, and on this pretext, the most hardworking and needy class of people had been alienated in their own land and were deprived of using it as per their wishes or requirements."

Sun Shines Bright Over Srinagar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: There was a slight dip in minimum temperatures in most parts of Kashmir with the tourist resort of Gulmarg reeling under intense cold wave as the mercury fell to minus 10.4 degrees Celsius, officials said here on Wednesday. Srinagar, which witnessed bright sunshine during the day, recorded a low of 1.3 degrees Celsius down from 1.8 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 10.4 degrees Celsius down from minus 9.2 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 5.6 degrees Celsius down from the previous night's minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, they said.

The officials said Qazigund recorded the minimum of 0.2 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 2.4 degrees Celsius.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius. Kashmir valley [More On P6](#)

3 Soldiers Injured In Shopian Encounter



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Three soldiers have been injured in an ongoing encounter between militants and government forces that broke

out on Wednesday in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Police, army and the paramilitary CRPF personnel laid a siege around Nowgam village of the [More On P6](#)

Shah Hails JKP's Fight Against Militancy

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday complimented the Jammu and Kashmir Police for its valour and commitment and said its dedication has been reflected as it got the largest share of 115 gallantry awards announced on the occasion of Republic Day. The Jammu and Kashmir Police has been in forefront in fighting militancy in the sensitive union territory for more than three decades now. [More On P6](#)

Kashmir's Karate Kid Among Padma Awardees

Observer Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: A young martial arts coach from north Kashmir's Bandipora has been nominated for Padma Shri award for his distinguished service in the field of Sports and Arts.

Faisal Ali Dar is known as Kashmir's 'Karate Kid'. A martial arts coach from Bandipora, he established a sports academy and trained 4,000 students. He aims to empower the youth in the sensitive, militancy-hit regions with opportunities and dreams.

His achievement is reflected in the medals won by him and his students in global kickboxing championships.

Also known as Master Faisal, he won his first Gold in a state level Taekwondo championship in 2005. He also got his first black belt in Kickboxing in 2008. Later in 2011 and 2013, he bagged Gold and Silver at championships in Iran and India respectively.

Faisal also [More On P6](#)

R-Day Passes Off Peacefully in Kashmir

Shops Remain Shut; Social Activists Unfurl Tri-Colour Atop Clock Tower Sgr; Omar Mocks At Pulling Down National Flag Within Few Hours, Terms It 'Unconstitutional'



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 73rd Republic Day passed off peacefully across Jammu and Kashmir amid heightened security measures and drone surveillance as no untoward incident was reported from any part of Valley.

Armed police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel dotted the nook and corner of the city to ensure that the day passed off peacefully.

Main Republic day function in Srinagar was held at Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium where Advisor to LG, RR Bhatnagar took salute at the parade and unfurled the tri-colour.

Witnesses said that shops remained shut in Srinagar and elsewhere in Kashmir and a thin traffic movement was seen on the roads. Public remained almost off the roads while the private vehicles were seen plying normally. Authorities snapped the

mobile internet services on all platforms for seven hours—7 am to 2 pm.

A group of political activists surfaced at Lal Chowk, Srinagar under heavy security and unfurled tri-colour atop Clock Tower (Ghanta Ghar). The activist used a hydraulic crane to install the tricolour on top of the tower amid a rendition of the National Anthem.

This was the first time since 1992 when BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi along with now prime minister Narendra Modi had unfurled tri-colour at Lal Chowk.

However a controversy erupted after the national flag was removed from atop the Clock Tower soon afterwards.

National Conference leader and former J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah tweeted the pictures of the Clock Tower without Tricolour and accused the organisers of insulting the national flag. [More On P6](#)

India Displays Its Military Prowess At R-Day Parade

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The grandest flypast with 75 aircraft to mark the 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' celebrations was the highlight of the 73rd Republic Day Parade on Wednesday where India displayed its military might and vibrant cultural heritage on Rajpath, with the ceremonial event this year being drastically scaled down in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Showcased at the Republic Day parade were the Centurion tank, PT-76 tank, 75/24 Pack howitzer and OT-62 TOPAZ armoured personnel carrier that played a major role in defeating Pakistan

in the 1971 war.

India in 2021 celebrated the Swarnim Vijay Varsh (Golden victory year) to commemorate the country's win over Pakistan in the 1971 war that led to the creation of Bangladesh. The mechanised columns of the Army showed one PT-76 tank, one Centurion tank, two MBT Arjun MK-I tanks, one OT-62 TOPAZ armoured personnel carrier, one BMP-I infantry fighting vehicle and two BMP-II infantry fighting vehicles.

The ceremony began with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the nation in paying homage to the martyrs by laying a wreath at the National [More On P6](#)

'Mischievous Propaganda', Says Azad After Speculation About Political Plans

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A day after he was awarded the Padma Bhushan, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and Congress veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday sought to scotch speculation about his future political plans.

Reports had claimed that he had changed his Twitter profile, but Azad, who has been critical of his party leadership and is the lone Congress leader to be awarded this year under the Modi dispensation, denied it.

"Some mischievous propaganda being circulated by some people to create confusion. Nothing has been removed or added to my Twitter profile. The profile [More On P6](#)

J&K Logs 5606 New Cases, 8 Corona Deaths

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A day after witnessing record 6,570 cases of infection since the onset of pandemic, Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday 5606 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus, while eight more people succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Kashmir Valley registered on Wednesday 4,253 new cases of virus while 1353 were detected in the various districts of Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected by virus across J&K to 414772.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 1305 new cases of Coronavirus, Budgam 803, Anantnag 528, Baramulla



440, Kupwara 380, Ganderbal 297, Kulgam 265, Pulwama 134, Bandipora 66 and Shopian 35.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu registered a maximum of 678 new cases of virus, Ramban 181, Udhampur 129, Doda and [More On P6](#)

CAG Report Calls For Probe Into Relief Given To Migrant Families Rs 51.37L Disbursed Among 47 Families Non-Existent In CID, HC List

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India's latest audit report has revealed that due to the non-formulation of a policy for Jammu migrants and unnecessary disbursement of relief to "ineligible" families, several eligible beneficiaries were overlooked from the full benefits of Migrant relief under Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP).

As per CAG, the database of Jammu migrants and their families was not prepared by the Relief and Rehabilitation Department and were further not updated on account of births, deaths, separation despite the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of J&K



Representation Image

identifying the eligible beneficiaries, after due verification of the migrant families.

"Thus, in the absence of a database, it could not be ensured that only eligible beneficiaries have been paid assistance under the Schemes," reads the CAG report.

The audit report has further revealed that 25 families who were ineligible as they had failed to find a place in the list furnished by CID were paid a relief amount of 27.26 lakh along with the monthly cash assistance.

"Further, in the case of

Tehsildar Reasi, arrears of Rs 51.37 lakh from April 2004 to September 2007 was paid to 47 migrant families who neither existed in CID list nor in the list of High Court. As payment of Rs 78.63 lakh was made to beneficiaries not featuring in the designated lists, the same needs to be investigated so that recovery is affected from ineligible beneficiaries." CAG has said.

Notably, the CAG report has also stated that there were several payments of enhanced cash assistance to ineligible migrant families. As per the audit, an excess disbursement of cash assistance of Rs 67.14 lakh to 84 migrant families and inadmissible payment of arrears of Rs 75.53 lakh was made to 49 migrant families for the [More On P6](#)



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Research Shows Social Media Use Tied To Poor Physical Health

Agencies

Social media addiction leaves very little room and space for physical activity, especially among college students. The results of a new study by a University of Buffalo researcher showed that social media use has been linked to biological and psychological indicators associated with poor physical health among college students.

The study was published in the journal 'Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking'.

Research participants who used social media excessively were found to have higher levels of C-reactive protein (CRP), a biological marker of chronic inflammation that predicts serious illnesses, such as diabetes, certain cancers and cardiovascular disease.

In addition to elevated CRP levels, results suggested that higher social media use was also related to somatic symptoms, like headaches, chest and back pains, and more frequent visits to doctors and health centers for the treatment of illness.

"Social media use has become an integral part of many young adults' daily lives," said David Lee, PhD, the paper's first author and assistant professor of communication in the UB College of Arts and Sciences. "It's critical that we understand how engagement across these platforms contributes to physical health."

For decades, researchers have devoted attention to how social media engagement related to users' mental health, but its effects on physical health have not been thoroughly investigated. Recent surveys indicated that social media usage is particularly high for people in their late teens and early 20s, a population that spent about six hours a day texting, online or using social media. And though a few studies have found links between social media usage and physical health, that research relied largely on self-reporting or the

effects of usage with exclusively one platform.

"Our goal was to extend prior work by examining how social media use across several platforms is associated with physical health outcomes measured with biological, behavioral and self-report measures," said Lee, an expert on health outcomes related to social interactions.

Researchers recruited a diverse sam-



ple of 251 undergraduate students between the ages of 18 and 24 for the study. Blood samples were collected through finger sticks, and participants also completed questionnaires on physical health and social media usage on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram, the most popular platforms at the time the data were collected in 2017.

Those responses were cross-checked with another survey that measured validity by determining the degree to which participants took their role in the study seriously.

"We were able to establish a correlation between the amount of social media use and these physical health indicators," said Lee. "The more par-

ticipants used social media, the more somatic symptoms they experienced and visits to the doctor they reported. They also showed higher levels of chronic inflammation."

Lee said, this study was just the beginning of understanding the relationship between social media and physical health.

"By looking at a biological marker in the blood, we were able to find



a relatively more objective association between social media usage and physical health, but this correlational finding can't rule out the possibility that poor health impacts social media usage," said Lee.

Lee said, the aphorism could hold true with social media use and physical health: The rich get richer while the poor get poorer. "In our previous research, we found those high in self-esteem benefited from using social media, but people low in self-esteem did not. So, the effect may be more nuanced."

"There's still work to be done," said Lee. "But right now, I wanted to get the word out there that social media use may have a link to important physical health outcomes."

Study Examines How We Understand Emojis

Agencies

A study was conducted to understand how people perceive emojis in their daily lives. The study has been published in the 'Computers in Human Behavior Journal'. Emojis are small image icons that originated in Japan: Japanese "e" means picture, "moji" means word.

"We set out to explore to what extent reading emoji is more similar to reading words

when homophones were used," points out Tatjana Scheffler.

"This indicates that an emoji can be broken down into a complete 'lexicon entry' that contains information about its pronunciation. Based on this information, the participants then derive the other, homophonic meaning," Scheffler added.

Still, the team also showed that the reading times differed considerably. The average reading time for a written-out word



or interpreting pictures," explained Tatjana Scheffler.

To this end, the researchers conducted an online study where participants read sentences in which some words were replaced by emoji, and measured the reading time for each word. Subsequently, they asked questions to test whether the participants understood the sentences.

"As we had suspected and as other studies suggest, our participants easily understood sentences with emoji instead of nouns," the researcher pointed out.

The comprehension questions were even answered correctly slightly more often - but not significantly so - following the sentences containing emoji than following the same sentences without any emoji.

Normal words, however, do not only lead to the meaning while they are being processed; they also have other properties that are activated during reading: for example their pronunciation. And words can be homophones: when two words have the same pronunciation but different meanings, for example, the knight and the night. The researchers wanted to find out if emoji can also trigger this phenomenon. "Therefore, we had our test participants read sentences in which the emoji doesn't show the intended object but its homophone," Tatjana Scheffler explained.

"We showed that the sentences were almost always understood correctly, even

is approximately 450 milliseconds, for a corresponding emoji approx. 800 milliseconds and for an emoji depicting a homophone more than 900 milliseconds.

This leads the researchers to conclude that the image must be interpreted first when reading emoji. Emoji are generally less recognisable and more unusual, and therefore not as easy to read as written words.

"This is also supported by the fact that those test participants who self-assessed as using emoji often, read matching emoji more quickly," Tatjana Scheffler said.

Since readers can also derive a pronunciation for emoji just like for words, homophone emoji are also readily understood. This takes longer, however, because the visual information has to be suppressed and the meaning of the homophonic word has to be recalled.

"In this case, the fact that someone is used to emoji is no longer helpful. Participants who use emoji more often read the homophone emoji just as slowly as the others," Tatjana Scheffler concluded.

Together with the team at Charite, she plans to conduct a similar study with people living with schizophrenia. Since some of them have difficulty identifying non-literal meanings, a comparison with a control group should provide additional insight into language processing, the linguistic structure of non-literal meaning and the linguistic effects of schizophrenia.

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of Rafiq Shafi w/o Mohd Shafi on Monday 25/01/22. Her Fateh Khawani will be observed on 28/01/22 (Friday) at 10:30am at graveyard Hafizbagh Malabagh Srinagar..

Breaved

Mohd Shafi Bhat
Ghulam Nabi Bhat (father)
8899653226 | 9811463874

inf

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Noor Mohammad Ganie S/o: Ghulam Qadir Ganie R/o: Chowdry Bagh Sebdan Bemina Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E 7739 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Bemina .



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5591

Dated 25/01/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Abdul Ahad Najar S/o: Ab Rehman Najar R/o: Hushroo Chadoora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04C 0519 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K State Co-Operative Bank B/U Panzan



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5595

Dated 25-01-2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA), Division Bandipora

No: - EE/PMGSY/Bpr/2711-14

Dated: - 24/01/2022

M/s Bhat & Co

Prop: Mohammad Abdullah Bhat

R/o Kanil Bagh Baramulla

Subject: - Upgradation and Maintenance of road from T 01 to Chuntimulla

Stage-U Phase - X

(Package No. JK03-208)

NOTICE

- Whereas the above cited road project stands allotted to you vide Superintending Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Circle Baramulla's allotment No.SE-PMGSY/Bla/266-70 Dated:-23-05-2017.
- Whereas the work on the road project was started on 02-06-2017 and was scheduled to be completed within 548 days.
- Whereas the upto date progress of the work is 85.57% which lags far behind as the project involves two (02) years of delay beyond the stipulated date of completion.
- Whereas the sunset date (March-2022) of the PMGSY-I and PMGSY-II schemes stands already conveyed to you long ago and in spite of that no improvement in pace of progress was observed at site.
- Whereas right from beginning of the project you were continuously directed to expedite the progress of the project but no effective response was observed from your side for completion of project except lame and false excuses to hide your failure.
- Whereas you were informed several times by this office as well as Sub Divisional office about your poor progress on the said project but nothing has been done by you on site so far in this regard.
- Whereas the land owners have already agreed to demolish their structures and widening of road especially at Khaar Chadie but again you have failed to execute the work on said spot.
- Whereas you left the work unattended in the month of September 2021 which was communicated to you vide this office Letter No: EE/PMGSY/Bpr/1876-79 Dated: 22-09-2021 and since then no substantial progress of work is observed at site.
- Whereas final notice was served to you vide this office No. EE/PMGSY/Bpr/1957-60 Dated:- 30/09/2021 wherein you were directed to resume work on the said project within two days positively but till date no response is observed from your side regarding resumption of work on the site.
- Whereas you were given one more chance in the interest of the work for resumption of work on said site vide this office letter No: EE/PMGSY/Bpr/2573-76 Dated : 30-12/2021within 03 days in terms of clause 52.2 (a) but you again failed to resume the work on said site.
- Whereas the project is already lagging in its progress as per the allotted time schedule on one hand and on the other hand it seems you are not interested about completion of the project and only playing delay tactics to pass the time and nothing else.

Therefore Keeping in view all above facts you are given a last chance to start the work on said project within two days positively and submit detailed bar chart for execution of each item of work at site in a well-planned manner in coordination with field staff of this office, otherwise this office is left with no option other than to recommend you for blacklisting and putting the balance work to fresh tenders at your risk and cost.

Executive Engineer
PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division
Bandipora

DIPK-17118/21

از نیابت دیگام بالا اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار دیگام
مضمون درخواست نمائید :- فیروز احمد مارگرے ولد سنان سلالہ پسران سلالہ مارگرے ساکنہ انان
بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفکٹ

اشعار بمراء گاهی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار آگاہ کیا جاتا ہے کہ ساکنان نے درخواست نسبت اجرائی سرٹیفکٹ RBA پیش کی ہے جو کہ دفتر بذمہ زریکاروائی ہے پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ اور پیویری یکارو طلب کیا گیا ہے جس کی رو سے تفصیل فراوانی بذیل درج ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	سنان احمد مارگرے ولد غلام محمد مارگرے	50 سال	زیرداری	=/15000
02	فہیمہ بانو زوجہ سنان احمد مارگرے	45 سال	گھر بیگام	
03	فیروز احمد مارگرے ولد سنان احمد مارگرے	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	عدنان احمد مارگرے ولد سنان احمد مارگرے	15 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد نہیں میں موجود ہیں ہے۔ اور تیسری ماہیہ آمدن =/1,50,000 ہے۔ لہذا جبکہ سرٹیفکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ دو سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض دفتر بذمہ زریکاروائی پیش کرے۔ مینا کوڈ کرنے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ma

از نیابت دیگام بالا اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار دیگام
مضمون درخواست نمائید :- فیروز احمد مارگرے ولد سنان سلالہ پسران سلالہ مارگرے ساکنہ انان
بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفکٹ

اشعار بمراء گاهی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار آگاہ کیا جاتا ہے کہ ساکنان نے درخواست نسبت اجرائی سرٹیفکٹ RBA پیش کی ہے جو کہ دفتر بذمہ زریکاروائی ہے پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ اور پیویری یکارو طلب کیا گیا ہے جس کی رو سے تفصیل فراوانی بذیل درج ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	غلام حسن نیجار ولد غلام رسول نیجار	52 سال	نیجار	=/7000
02	گلشن بانو زوجہ غلام حسن نیجار	50 سال	گھر بیگام	
03	زیر حسن ولد غلام حسن نیجار	25 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	سمیرت جان دختر غلام حسن نیجار	22 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	عربین دختر غلام حسن نیجار	20 سال	زیر تعلیم	
06	ناصر حسن ولد غلام حسن نیجار	17 سال	زیر تعلیم	
07	ماہیہ خانو دختر غلام حسن نیجار	14 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد نہیں میں موجود ہیں ہے۔ اور تیسری ماہیہ آمدن =/84000 ہے۔ لہذا جبکہ سرٹیفکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ دو سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض دفتر بذمہ زریکاروائی پیش کرے۔ مینا کوڈ کرنے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ma

از نیابت دیر پورہ بالا اجلاس غلام علی الدین بٹ صاحب
درخواست نمائید :- سمیر چاویہ خان ولد چاویہ احمد خان ساکنہ رتیر پورہ تحصیل منٹل
بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفکٹ

اشعار بمراء گاهی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست سرٹیفکٹ دفتر بذمہ زریکاروائی پیش کیا ہے جس کی فوار پر رپورٹ جو کہ زریکاروائی ہے۔ پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے مینا ہے جس کے ساکن چھپتے پندرو سالوں سے بدہ میں سکونت پذیر ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام والدین	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	جگہ پتیہ محمد خان	75 سال	عمر سیدہ	
2	محمد اقبال خان ولد علی محمد خان	40 سال	مزدوری	=/6000
3	شہد زوجہ محمد اقبال خان	38 سال	گھر بیگام	
4	انشاء اقبال دختر محمد اقبال خان	22 سال	زیر تعلیم	
5	آویسہ اقبال دختر محمد اقبال خان	20 سال	زیر تعلیم	
6	عالمہ اقبال دختر محمد اقبال خان	08 سال	زیر تعلیم	
7	طارق احمد خان ولد علی محمد خان	43 سال	نا توان	
8	نذر احمد خان ولد محمد خان	55 سال	نا توان	
9	سمیر چاویہ خان ولد چاویہ احمد خان	24 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طرح ساکن کا کہنے 09 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ اور ساکن کے تیس میں کوئی ملازمتی ملازم موجود نہیں ہے۔۔۔ ساکن کے کہنے کے پاس دفعہ میں 09 کتاں آرائشی موجود ہے۔ جبکہ ساکن کے کہنے کی سالانہ آمدن =/105000 روپیہ تک ہے۔ اسطورہ رسال کے کہنے کی سالانہ آمدنی تمام زرعی =/177000 ہزار روپیہ تک ہے۔ ساکن RBA سرٹیفکٹ اجراء کرنے کی خواہش رکھتا ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا عذر یا اعتراض دفتر بذمہ زریکاروائی پیش کرے۔ مینا کوڈ کرنے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

rna

حاجی غلام احمد ڈار انتقال کر گئے

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کیساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ حاجی غلام احمد ڈار ولد غلام رسول ڈار ساکنہ کرسو راجباغ سرینگر مورخہ 24 جنوری 2022 بروز سوموار کو اچانک اس دنیا فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ مرحوم انتہائی شریف انفس، ملنسار اور انسان دوست شخص ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ صوم و صلوات کے پابند تھے۔ مرحوم کی فاتح خوانی جمعۃ المبارک 8 جنوری 2022 آبائی مقبرہ پر صبح انجام دی جائے گی۔

نوٹ: مستورات سے گزارش ہے کہ میوہ وغیرہ ساتھ نہ لائیں۔

سوغا گار

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J&K Grants One More Extension To JJB and CWC members

Agencies

Srinagar: Amid inordinate delay over setting up of selection-cum-oversight committee for appointment of members of the juvenile justice boards (JJBs) and child welfare committees (CWCs) in Jammu & Kashmir, the government has granted one more extension to members of these bodies.

The department of Social Welfare, which is the administrative department of JJBs and CWCs, has ordered an extension of two months to members of JJBs and chairpersons/ members of CWCs or till these vacancies are filled.

This is the second extension to members of JJBs and CWCs, which were constituted for the first time in 2018 in Jammu & Kashmir.

In January last year, the Social Welfare department had granted one-year extension to JJB and CWC members. "During the process of selection of fresh Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Welfare) Act, 2015 and Juvenile Justice(Child and Welfare) Model Rules, 2016, the existing Juvenile Justice Boards and Welfare Committees shall be allowed to continue their functioning for period of one year or till such fresh selections are made as per the prescribed procedure, whichever is earlier," read the order issued by the department, a copy of which is with the news agency.

It is worthwhile to mention that members of JJBs and CWCs are appointed by a selection-cum-over sight committee headed by a former High Court judge.

The JJB is a statutory body constituted under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. It comprises of a metropolitan magistrate or a judicial magistrate of first class and two social workers.

The Child Welfare Committees are also constituted under the Juvenile Justice Act-2015.

Each CWC comprises a chairperson, and four other members, of whom at least one shall be a woman and another an expert on the matters concerning children—(KNO)



On 26th January, the streets of Kashmir wore a deserted look and people mostly stayed indoors, marking a shutdown on India's 73rd Republic Day. Shops remained shut in Srinagar and elsewhere in Kashmir and a thin traffic movement was seen on the roads. Pic Abid Bhat

Tricolour Hoisted In Lal Chowk After 30 Years

Observer News Service

Srinagar:- National flag was hoisted atop the historic Clock tower in city's Lal Chowk on Wednesday, 30 years after veteran BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi did it for the first time.

Social activists Sajid Yousuf Shah and Sahil Bashir Bhat along with dozens of supporters had organized the flag hoisting ceremony at Clock Tower, locally known as Ghanta Ghar, to mark the Republic Day.

The activist used a hydraulic crane elevator to install the national flag on top of the clock tower amidst rendition of the national anthem.

Young players from Kashmir Martial Arts Academy also partici-

pated in the function.

The participants danced to patriotic songs as hundreds of Police and paramilitary personnel stood guard around the clock tower.

Senior BJP leader had hoisted the national flag at Lal Chowk in 1992 at the peak of militancy in the valley.

However, after a few hours the flag was no longer seen, inviting criticism from the regional political parties.

Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah while taking a flag at authorities termed the incident as 'insulting' the national flag

While calling the exercise "Photo ops", Omar took to the microblogging site twitter and posted "Trico-

lour disappears in less than a couple of hours. It didn't even remain there for the day. Why insult the National Flag of India just for a photo op? Is this what patriotism & nationalism has come to? Photo ops & trolling?,"

The National Conference (NC), Vice President added, "If you don't know your Indian Flag Code then here is a bit of help – "As far as possible display from sunrise to sunset" which means that it can be flown 24×7, 365 days a year as long as other provisions of the flag code are followed".

While taking a jibe at the administration, Omar said "Also, sunset in Srinagar today is 5:55 PM & the moment it's 4:09 PM IST. Just in case you are wondering"

از نیابت والکولر لہ پورہ
باجلاس نائب تحصیلدار انکیزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول
مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب عابد اکبر بدو ولد محمد اکبر بدوسانہ
محمود پورہ تحصیل کتزر برامعطا گی RBA سرٹیفیکٹ تحت 294
SRO بحق خود

اشہدار برامو آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

محالہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر بدیش زیر کارونی ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ پیشواری کارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل اور اس کا والد گذشتہ پندرہ سال سے زائدہ رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل کی مہوار آمدنی 4787 روپے جتنا کی ہے کہ یہ بڑیل افرو پر مشتمل ہے

ملازمت	50 سال	سربراہ کہہ
گھریلو کام	48 سال	
زیر تعلیم	27 سال	
زیر تعلیم	23 سال	
زیر تعلیم	20 سال	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کہ نہیں ہے صرف ایک اجرا کرتے ہیں اگر کسی شخص کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم اندر دفتر بدیش پیش کرے معیار کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار nyk

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT
REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER
BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner.
Shri : Khazir Mohd Bandy
S/o: Mohd Ahsan Bandy R/o: Beerwah Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Sheraz Ahmad Mir S/o Abdul Samad Mir R/o Banderpora Budgam as Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab Tata Sumo Carriage route permit No.403/MC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04A-2508 as well as HP Cancellation with M/S Abrol Trading Corp. B/U Narwal Jammu Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/ vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5594
Dated 25-01-2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT
REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER
BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner.
Shri : Parvaiz Ahmad Sheikh
S/o: Abdul Salam Sheikh
R/o: Check Kawoosa Narbal Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Joginder Singh S/o Prem Singh R/o Shogapora Budgam as Transferee) for transfer of JCB Escort Vehicle No. JK04F-0163. as well as HP Cancellation with State Bank of India B/U RASMECCC Srinagar Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/ vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 5593
Dated 25/01/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Division Baramulla

Tele fax 01952234426 e-mail, id, executiveengineermdb@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM (EXTENSION OF CRITICAL DATES)

Subject: - EXTENTION OF CRITICAL DATES OF e-NIT No. 176 OF 2021-22 Dated 15.01.2022

Tender ID:- 2022_PWDJK_157194_1

2022_PWDJK_157194_2

Reference: - This office E- NIT No. MDB/TS/e-Tender /176/4318-24 of 2021-22 Dated: 15.01.2022

Due to inadequate response in reference to above cited e-NIT, the Critical Dates stand extended as under:

S. No	Description	Re- Scheduled date
1	Date of Downloading	15.01.2022 (06:15 PM) to 02-02-2022 (06:00 PM)
2	Date of uploading	15.01.2022 (06:30 PM) to 02-02-2022 (06:55 PM)
3	Due date of opening of tender	03-02-2022 (02:00 PM)

Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division
Baramulla

DIPK-17169/21

No: - MDB /TS/e-tendering-176/4514-17

Dated: - 25-01-2022

Srinagar Development Authority

Bemina, Bye Pass Ner SKI MS Medical College, Sriangar, Kashmir -190018
Tel: 0194-2493191, Fax: 0191-2493180 Email: srinagardevelopmentauthority@gmail.com

Short Term Quotation
Notice No. 01 of 2022.

SDA invites the sealed premium bills from the General Insurance Companies of UT of J&k for lenewal of insurance of SDA. Assets, worth Rs. 15993.38 Lacs located at different locations as per enclosed list. The insurance should cover the standard fire & special peril's insurance reinstatement policy extended to cover earth quack (STFI) Storm, Burglary Flood, Tempest & inundation and Terrorism covers in addition to various perils covered under the said insurance policy. The quotation affixed with revenue stamp Rs.5/- should reach to the Head Office Srinagar Development Authority, near SKIMS Hospital Bernina, Bye Pass Road Srinagar by or before 01-02-22 before 2.00pm.The Quotations addressed to the Vice Chairman,SDA will be opened on same day by the tender committee in presence of the participants who may choose to be present. In case of non availability /busy schedule of the members of the committee, the same will be opened on some other convenient day.

The details of SDA assets and other related information will be available from the office of the Senior Estates Officer, Srinagar Development Authority.

Senior Estates Officer,
Srinagar Development Authority.

DIPK-NB-6757/21
NO.SDA/SEO/8-2-10
Dated:24 /01/2022

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Closed)
Srinagar- Leh- (Closed)

PRAYERS

FAJR	6: 06
ZUHR	12:42
ASR	4:18
Magrib	5:59
ISHA	7: 22

HIJRI
CALENDAR
23 Jumada al-Sani
1443

This Day In History

- 661 - Rashidun Caliphate, then the largest empire in history, ends with death of Ali. Succeeded by the Umayyad Caliphate
- 1695 - Mustafa II becomes the Ottoman sultan in Istanbul on the death of Ahmed II. Mustafa rules until his death in 1703.
- 1880 - Thomas Edison patents electric incandescent lamp
- 1897 - British troops occupy Bida Gold Coast (Ghana)
- 1926 - US Senate agrees to join World Court
- 1926 - Physicist Erwin Schrödinger publishes his theory of wave mechanics and presents what becomes known as the Schrödinger equation in quantum mechanics
- 1945 - Soviet troops liberate Auschwitz and Birkenau Concentration Camps in Poland
- 1967 - Treaty signed banning military use of nuclear weapons in space
- 1973 - US & North Vietnam & William Rogers & Nguyen Duy Trinh sign cease-fire, ending longest US war and military draft
- 1976 - Morocco-Algeria battles in West Sahara
- 1985 - 15th Space Shuttle (51-C) Mission-Discovery 3 returns to Earth

From KO Archives

900 Britons Join Fight Every Year Giving Up Luxury To Fight For Kashmir

Dalip Singh & James Clark

LONDON- At least 900 young British Muslims are leaving the country each year to take part in the battle for Kashmir, with many using holidays from good jobs to fight in what they regard as a holy war, an investigation has revealed.

Recruited in mosques, bookshops and community groups, they spend three months being trained in mountain camps on the side of Pakistan border before entering the conflict against India.

Delhi is so angry about the increasing numbers of fighters being trained, and the (POUND) 7m raised in Britain to 'defend' Kashmir, that a private meeting has been called in the Indian capital with representatives of the British Foreign Office and MI5, the security service.

Indian officials will demand that Britain take stronger action to stop recruitment and, fundraising, which they claim foes directly to terrorism and sees up to 1,800 Britons making the journey each year.

MI5, which has a special section dedicated to looking into the problem, disagrees with the Indian estimates. However, a security source said "There are about 900 UK citizens who make this trip for training each year. About 10% of those stay and fight, the rest take their political and religious indoctrination and bring it back to their own communities, mostly for fundraising and recruitment."

He said the service was acutely sensitive to accusations that it was targeting Muslims, but insisted that it was targeting terrorists regardless of colour.

The Sunday Times spoke to three men in north London, all university graduates from middle-class British families, two of whom held down highly paid jobs. All three had trained or fought in Kashmir. Abu Yahya, 27, said. "I have just returned from Pakistan. I joined Islamic camps and met Islamic leaders. There I was trained with movements like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Harkat-ul-Jihad-Islami and Harkat-ul-Ansar. We were trained to use Kalashnikovs, make bombs, everything that an army would need to wage battle."

Izzadeen Abdullah, a 28-yr-old white former Christian with a degree in optical engineering, adopted Islam, had also recently returned. "I crossed the border in Kashmir. I think for any Muslim, the most eagerly awaited opportunity is to kill the enemy. The Indian soldiers don't deserve any mercy and I'm happy to say that I took part in wiping them out."

"We are planning to go there next month. I'm an engineer in fibre optics so I just contract out for a couple of months from a work."

Also in the house was Abu-Ibrahim, a 29-yr-old computer engineer. "You would be surprised to know that there are many computer guys in place like Canary Wharf who are involved in these kinds of activities. I have had training here in the Territorial Army and again in Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan."

The one thing all three have in common is a fear of the government's new anti-terrorism act, due to come into force this year. They believe it will lead to them being jailed in Britain, if they continue to travel to Pakistan and Kashmir. (Courtesy- Sunday Times London.)

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 27 January, 2001)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Elusive Engagement

India on Wednesday called upon Pakistan to “vacate all areas” of Jammu and Kashmir under its illegal occupation. India’s counsellor in the country’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations R. Madhu Sudan took serious exception to Pakistan after Islamabad’s envoy to the UN Munir Akram raked up the issue of Jammu and Kashmir during an UNSC Open Debate on ‘Protection of civilians in armed conflict: Wars in cities - protection of civilians in urban settings’ on Tuesday. In response, Madhu Sudan said that India has repeatedly told Pakistan that Jammu and Kashmir “was, is and shall forever” remain an integral part of the country. He also advised Pakistan to accept the reality and stop all anti-India propaganda. India’s counsellor also brought up terrorism in Pakistan saying that most terrorist attacks around the world have their origin, in some form or the other, in that country.

India always brings up terrorism sponsored from across the border and Pakistan makes counter accusations and also seeks to highlight the situation in Kashmir. This acrimonious exchange is a routine spectacle at the United Nations where the mutually antagonistic positions are ritualistically rehearsed at various meetings.

If anything, it also underlines the lingering estrangement between the neighbours that has further deepened since New Delhi’s withdrawal of Article 370 in August 2019. Situation can be expected to improve if the leaders of the two countries deem it in their core interest to engage.

And if not then we can only hope that the current climate of distrust and antagonism doesn’t lead to further escalation of tensions. More so, when due to suspended talks, the two countries lack the diplomatic tools to manage the fallout. It is therefore important that the two countries get back to the dialogue and work towards the resolution of their longstanding issues for durable peace in the region.

Incidentally, Madhu Sudan did indicate India’s willingness to engage in dialogue with Pakistan. He said India desires normal neighbourly relations with all countries, including Pakistan, and is committed to addressing outstanding issues, if any, bilaterally and peacefully in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore declaration. But he reiterated India’s policy that any meaningful dialogue can be held only in an atmosphere “free of terror, hostility and violence”. The onus, he added, is on Pakistan to create such a conducive atmosphere and warned that until this does not happen, India will continue “to take firm and decisive steps to respond to cross-border terrorism.” This doesn’t give much of a hope that the things will change for the better in near future. More so, when the governments in the two countries have less time left before another general election takes place. More so, in the case of Pakistan.

O T H E R O P I N O N

False Dichotomy

The Supreme Court has once again addressed the ‘merit versus reservation’ debate, a misleading binary that has engaged public and judicial discourse for years. While ruling in favour of extending reservation to OBCs in the all-India quota (AIQ) of seats in admission to under-graduate and post-graduate medical and dental courses, the Court has concluded that the binary has become superfluous. The courts have now come to recognise the idea of ‘substantive equality’, which sees affirmative action not as an exception to the equality rule, but as a facet of the equality norm. ‘Formal equality’, or the principle that everyone competes on an equal footing, is inadequate to address social inequalities and the inherent disadvantages of the less advanced sections, necessitating provisions that help them compete with the advanced classes. The competitive examination may be necessary for distribution of educational opportunities, but it does not enable equal opportunity for those competing without the aid of social and cultural capital, inherited skills and early access to quality schooling. Good performance in an examination does reflect hard work, but does not always reflect “merit” solely of one’s own making. “The rhetoric surrounding merit obscures the way in which family, schooling, fortune and a gift of talents that the society currently values aids in one’s advancement,” writes Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, and raises the relevant question whether marks are the best gauge of individual merit. Seen in this light, reservation ensures that backward classes are able to avail of opportunities that “typically evade them because of structural barriers”.

The provision of 27% reservation for OBCs within the AIQ was introduced only in July 2021. Implemented from 1986, the AIQ was envisaged as a domicile-free quota to access medical education in all colleges in the country. It comprises 15% of undergraduate medical and dental seats and 50% of post-graduate seats surrendered by the States for admission through a central pool. For two decades, there was no reservation in this segment. In 2007, the Court allowed the introduction of 15% reservation for SCs and 7.5% for STs. Even when the OBC quota was introduced in Central government institutions alone, there was none in State colleges. The decision to end this discrimination now has judicial imprimatur. The Court has also rejected the argument that there was no need for reservation in post-graduate medical education. The impact of backwardness, it has said, does not simply disappear because a candidate has a graduate qualification and does not create parity between advanced classes and backward classes. The latest judgment marks another notable addition to the body of affirmative action jurisprudence.

The Hindu

Until My ‘Normalcy’ Has Come



STATEHOOD TO KASHMIR, SAYS HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH, will be restored when conditions return to normal. But who will decide what normalcy is?

Riyaz Wani

GOING FORWARD, the situation looks very uncertain. It is unlikely that space for normal political activity will open up anytime soon. The centre is in no mood to engage with Kashmiri establishment parties after their meeting with the prime minister last year

HOME minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that Jammu and Kashmir will get full statehood “as soon as the situation becomes normal.” Speaking at a virtual event where he released India’s First “District Good Governance Index”, Shah reiterated that Assembly polls in the Union Territory will be conducted after the process of delimitation is completed.

If we go by the sequence of the steps to be followed before the statehood is restored, the completion of the delimitation exercise would lead to the holding of the elections within the union territory framework. And statehood would be a third step in the process. But this sequence is unacceptable to the major J&K parties including Congress. This time they are unhappy over the home minister conditioning the restoration of statehood to the situation in J&K becoming “normal.” The logical question that follows is who will decide Kashmir is normal now, as asked by the People’s Conference chief Sajad Lone.

But as for the centre, there is no change in its Kashmir policy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government is prioritizing the achievement of its ideological and strategic objectives in Kashmir before restoring the statehood. And the delimitation commission which seeks to reduce the political weightage of Kashmir Valley in the future Assembly assumes a profound significance in this context.

It will end up changing the political landscape of J&K like never before. It could very well pave the way for a future chief minister who is from Jammu, a longstanding political plank of the BJP. And once that is done, there is little guarantee that statehood would be the next logical step. Or whether the statehood to be granted would be full or a truncated one - one that resembles a Delhi-type arrangement where the real power remains vested with the governor. Such an arrangement would hardly be enough to make a redeeming difference to the existing state of affairs in J&K, as fundamentally there wouldn’t be much that would

change on the ground.

An ideal arrangement from the centre’s point of view would be a government dominated by the BJP, whose chances following the delimitation of seats

BUT EVEN IF A Kashmir-based party were to form or lead a future government, it would have little maneuvering space to carry out its agenda or overturn the laws passed by the New Delhi backed administration over the last two and a half years.

look brighter. Or, at least, a government of the party or parties which have reconciled to the loss of the autonomy as a fait accompli. And such a scenario looks very much possible. Over the last two years, the centre has successfully formed parties which if not directly toeing its line would dare also not question it. That is, as long as the BJP is in power at the centre.

Besides, the BJP has also been able to further splinter the political landscape of Kashmir. The last year has seen desertions from the parties like the PDP and National Conference into the Apni Party and the People’s Conference, more so, in the latter.

In theory, the influx of the leaders from the PDP and also from the National Conference has set up the People’s Conference as a stronger Kashmir-based party. And should Lone succeed in rallying North Kashmir around his party, it

would transform the electoral landscape of the Valley. This would split up Kashmir among the three parties: the National Conference (NC), the PDP and the PC. That is, if we discount the chances of Apni Party led by Altaf Bukhari, which boasts of some leaders, most of them drawn from the PDP, who command some support in their respective constituencies.

The PDP has traditionally been dominant in South Kashmir and the NC in central Kashmir with Srinagar city as its core base. And now the north Kashmir where both the NC and the PDP won their seats is witnessing the emergence of the PC as a major player. Whether this new political reality also reflects in the seat tallies of these parties in the future assembly election remains to be seen.

But even if a Kashmir-based party were to form or lead a future government, it would have little maneuvering space to carry out its agenda or overturn the laws passed by the New Delhi backed administration over the last two and a half years.

Going forward, the situation looks very uncertain. It is unlikely that space for normal political activity will open up anytime soon. The centre is in no mood to engage with Kashmiri establishment parties after their meeting with the prime minister last year. The harsh truth is that if at all, the centre will engage, it will do so on its terms and offer little accommodation to the demands of the major regional parties like the National Conference and the PDP. There is also little hope that these parties would be allowed to publicly raise their issues. They will have no option but to wait and watch and see if the evolving political scene in the country would open up some space for their political re-assertion. As long as the BJP is in power, it is unlikely that the statehood would be restored. The logic is simple: that would deny the party direct control of the state of affairs in the region, something that the party is loath to part with.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

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Respecting Women Online

COVID-19 has pushed people to the digital universe, now, more than ever. This, however, does not mean that this proliferation has been entirely positive. With more people on the internet, it has also become a vulnerable space. It is especially true for women. Women face a number of issues

online. Stalking, trolling, harassment and blackmailing – to name a few. Trolling, out of all these, is often brushed under the carpet and is trivialised. This trivialisation of trolling helps no one and is absolutely unacceptable. In a country like India, there is every chance that digital abuse can translate into physical harm. Women are already in danger here and add to

that the access that internet gives to possible offenders. Therefore, we must find ways to collaboratively call out abusive handles and ensure the safety of women on the internet. Additionally, vocal women need to be supported and protected because they’re always at the receiving end of hate. Moreover, those who aren’t aware of how to use

internet safely, should also be educated. Students should be taught provisions under law for digital offences from the school level itself. It is imperative to have an all-hands-on-deck approach to ensure that we give a safe internet to women.

Ameera Shah

Everybody Into The Metaverse!

Virtual Reality Beckons Big Tech

Cade Metz

The metaverse, one of the most buzzy terms of the tech industry, could be many things. It could be a virtual world where imagination is the only limit. Or it could be a less fantastical place for holding business meetings without leaving home.

For the tech titans getting behind this big idea, the metaverse could be something more tangible: the next great way to make piles of money.

After 15 years of riding a boom in mobile computing that has turned tech's biggest companies into giants worth trillions of dollars, the power brokers of the industry believe that controlling the doors into the metaverse and virtual reality could be the centerpiece of a new business, like smartphones and apps or personal computers and web browsers in the 1990s.

Fifteen years is a long time for the industry to wait for a new tech trend to come along. Ideas that many hoped would take central stage by now, like advanced artificial intelligence and quantum computing, are taking longer than some had anticipated. And the technology behind cryptocurrencies and newer ideas like decentralized computing appears promising — but its mainstream appeal is still unclear.

So tech companies are lining up to sell the devices that let consumers into this virtual world and control their experiences once they are inside it. Suddenly, building new things for the metaverse is offering the kind of fresh appeal that comes along only every so often in any industry.

Mark Zuckerberg is so excited about the metaverse that he recently made the attention-grabbing decision to change his company's name from Facebook to Meta. Google has been working on metaverse-related technology for years. Apple, arguably the biggest winner of the mobile boom, has its own devices in the works. Microsoft is putting a corporate spin on the metaverse, offering a headset to businesses and government agencies.

"Most companies now see that the metaverse is around the corner," said Matthew Ball, a venture capitalist and an essayist who has written extensively about this concept and the hype around it. "The narrative is a little ahead of the reality of these technologies, but this is a response to the enormity of the opportunity."

One research firm estimates that the market for metaverse technologies — including games, virtual reality headsets, and other emerging gadgets and online services — topped \$49 billion in 2020 and will grow by more than 40% each year.



“WE HAVE A VAGUE SENSE OF WHAT THINGS CURRENTLY EXIST THAT we could kind of call the metaverse, and we know which companies are investing in the idea, but we still don't know what it is. Facebook—sorry, Meta, still not getting it—thinks it will include fake houses you can invite all your friends to hang out in

"This is the evolution of the internet," said Alex Kipman, who has spent more than a decade shepherding this kind of technology at Microsoft. "If you are a company like Microsoft, you want to participate."

Focusing attention on the metaverse also allows companies like Facebook to focus on something other than their problems with content moderation, misinformation and regulators accusing them of monopolistic practices. But it could also lead to new scrutiny of old issues like privacy and managing who does what to whom in a virtual world.

The metaverse is not a new idea. Science fiction writer Neal Stephenson coined the term in 1992, and the concept is commonplace among video game companies. For decades, massively multiplayer online games have served as digital worlds where people can meet, chat and do business. Some, like Second Life, an online fad more than a decade ago, were designed as purely social spaces.

In 2014, in a deal valued at more than \$2 billion, Facebook acquired Oculus, a startup that made virtual reality headsets

— goggles that trick your brain into thinking you are inside a digital landscape. Zuckerberg began describing virtual reality as the next big computing platform, though exactly when that would happen was hard to predict.

Zuckerberg says the metaverse will pervade daily life in ways games do not, offering new avenues for buying goods and services, communicating with friends and family and collaborating with colleagues. But at the moment, Meta's headsets are cumbersome. Sometimes, they make people sick. They completely cover the eyes, separating people from the world around them.

Apple, a company known for building enormously popular, consumer-friendly devices, is among the many companies working to improve these headsets, a person familiar with the project said. But there are physical limitations holding the technology back.

Apple's prototype, which resembles ski goggles, requires separate hardware that connects to the headset and must be worn elsewhere on the body, the person said. Apple declined to comment.

Ultimately, many experts argue, Zuckerberg's vision will be realized only through lightweight eyeglasses that can layer digital images onto what you see in the real world — often called "augmented reality."

As people walk down the street, they could check the latest sports scores from a digital display that seems to float in front of them. They could sit down for a meeting with people who are right next to them — and others who are not.

Google is among those developing this kind of eyewear. Years after introducing Google Glass — smart glasses that faced enormous backlash over their geeky vibe and casual approach to personal privacy — the company is nurturing a new project.

Last year, Google acquired a startup called North, which had purchased many of the patents behind a smart-glasses project that originated at computer chip giant Intel. The glasses could project digital images directly into the eyes of the people who wore them, and though they were heavier than ordinary glasses, they were reasonably comfortable, according to early testers. Google declined to comment.

But the mainstream appeal of what tech companies are describing is still an open question. Virtual reality that completely covers the eyes "is something you will use for certain tasks — and the experience might be amazing — but it is not something for the general public," said Nikhil Balram, who helped oversee the development of virtual and augmented reality hardware at Google until November last year.

Intel's augmented reality project produced a prototype, Vaunt, which was tested with consumers. The leader of the project, Jerry Bautista, said in a recent interview that these glasses showed enormous promise not just as a personal technology that people wanted to use but as a new kind of computing platform that could provide new sources of revenue.

"We were giving away the hardware but making money on the data," he said. "For every dollar of hardware, we were making three dollars on software and data sales."

This is why companies like Apple, Google, Microsoft and Meta are exploring similar technologies. For some, they might be a way of selling software and services. For others, they might be a way of selling ads, Bautista said.

But experts say perfecting this technology could take a decade — if not more. Some augmented reality glasses are as small and light as ordinary eyewear, but they do not yet offer the computing power needed to generate the convincing but unobtrusive images that everyday use would require.

"It sometimes feels like '10 years' is code for 'I have no idea,'" said Balram, who is developing augmented reality glasses at a company called EyeWay Vision after leaving Google.

In 2018, Intel shut down the Vaunt project, before selling many of its patents to North, the startup acquired by Google. Ultimately, Bautista said, the company felt it was just too difficult to answer the many questions surrounding the technology.

Because of privacy regulations in Europe and other parts of the world, he said, the project could end up harming the bottom line more than it helped. The company estimated that 3% of its yearly revenues could be at risk, he said.

Now, many of the world's most powerful tech companies are facing the same questions.

"We can build amazing things," Bautista said. "The hardware is not the hard part. The business models are not the hard part. Finding ways these devices can be used is not the hard part. The hard part is: What happens if the data leaks out?"

The article was originally published by New York Times

When Will The Covid-19 Pandemic End?

4 Essential Reads On Past Pandemics And What The Future Could Bring

Maggie Villiger

More than two years after the first cases of COVID-19 were diagnosed, people are exhausted by the coronavirus pandemic, ready for all this to end. When — if ever — is it realistic to expect SARS-CoV-2 will recede from the headlines and daily life?

That's the unspoken question beneath the surface of many of The Conversation's articles about COVID-19. None of our authors can see the future, but many do have expertise that offers insights about what's reasonable to expect. Here are four such stories from our archive. Written by historians and scientists, they each suggest a way to think about what's at the end of the pandemic tunnel — and paths to get there.

1. Past pandemics are not a perfect prediction

Almost as soon as it hit, people were trying to figure out how the COVID-19 pandemic would proceed. It was tempting to look for clues in the course of the 1918 flu pandemic that killed as many as 50 million people worldwide. Could the waves of disease seen in the 1900s provide a road map for what could be expected a century later?

Daily deaths from COVID-19 were declining in the U.S. when historian Mari Webel and virologist Megan Culler Freeman from University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences cautioned against reading too much into how things had gone for people generations ago.

It was so tempting to superimpose a timeline of flu surges on the modern calendar to get even a blurry forecast of what the corona-



virus might have in store for us. "Scanning the historical record is one way to draw our own lives into focus and perspective," wrote Webel and Culler Freeman. "Unfortunately, the end of influenza in summer 1919 does not portend the end of COVID-19 in the summer of 2020."

And for reasons ranging from biology to demographics to politics, that is one prediction that most certainly came true.

2. Calling it over before it's really over

While the 1918 flu pandemic wasn't an exact template for how the coronavirus would sweep the world, the earlier pandemic provided plenty of parallels when it came to human behavior.

University of Michigan historian J. Alexander Navarro described how in the early 20th cen-

tury Americans essentially quit on effective social distancing precautions when they got fed up with living constrained lives. Sound familiar?

As case numbers declined, "People clamored to return to their normal lives. Businesses pressed officials to be allowed to reopen," Navarro wrote. "Believing the pandemic was over, state and local authorities began rescinding public health edicts."

With the burden of public health resting on individual choices, additional waves of flu crashed over the population. Some amount of wishful thinking, along with a premature return to "normal," was likely to blame. People's choices can affect whether an infectious disease outbreak ends or drags on.

3. Once a virus comes, it never really leaves

“FOR NOW, THESE SCHOLARS WRITE, THE best we can likely hope for is stabilized rates of SARS-CoV-2 that settle down into predictable patterns, like flu season

Infectious diseases are as old as humanity. Pointing to examples such as malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy and measles, Rutgers University — Newark historian Nükhet Varlik wrote, "Once added to the repertoire of pathogens that affect human societies, most infectious diseases are here to stay." Only smallpox has been completely eradicated, thanks to an intense global vaccination campaign.

Varlik's own research has focused on plague, a bacterial disease that's caused at least three pandemics in the past 5,000 years — including the 14th century's Black Death — along with many more localized outbreaks over the years. Outbreaks wound down based on factors like "changes in temperature, humidity and the availability of hosts, vectors and a sufficient number of susceptible individuals," Varlik wrote. "Some societies recovered relatively quickly from their losses caused by the Black Death. Others never did."

The responsible bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*, is still with us today.

4. The endemic endgame

A post-pandemic world may still have COVID-19 in it. Many researchers suspect that the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus will become endemic, meaning it's always around, with some level of constant ongoing transmission. The viruses that cause the flu and the common cold,

for instance, are endemic.

Sara Sawyer, Arturo Barbachano-Guerrero and Cody Warren, a team of virologists and immunologists from the University of Colorado Boulder, wrote that SARS-CoV-2 might hit the sweet spot for a virus to become endemic by being just the right degree of transmissible: "Generally speaking, viruses that are highly contagious, meaning that they spread really well from one person to the next, may never die out on their own because they are so good at finding new people to infect."

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SARS-CoV-2 spreads easily through the air. Even people who aren't experiencing any symptoms can pass the coronavirus to others. These factors, along with today's heavily interconnected global society, make it unlikely COVID-19 is going away completely anytime soon.

For now, these scholars write, the best we can likely hope for is stabilized rates of SARS-CoV-2 that settle down into predictable patterns, like flu season. If you want to help hurry things along toward this end stage, do what you can to make yourself an inhospitable host for the coronavirus — most notably, keep up to date with recommended COVID-19 vaccinations.

The author is Senior Science + Technology Editor. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

People posting videos of UAE attack summoned under vague law

With these, the total number of cured patients is 23,496, they said. (PTI)

J&K Making Great Strides In Fulfilling PM's Vision: LG



Unveils 'Charkha' At Srinagar International Airport

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that the Union Territory was making great strides in fulfilling the Prime Minister's vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat and keeping with this spirit, continuous efforts are being made for the revival and conservation of Khadi, Rural Arts & Crafts, besides expanding their reach to the international market.

Sinha made these remarks while virtually unveiling a Charkha (Spinning Wheel) at the Srinagar International Airport, an official spokesperson said. The Charkha measuring 8.6 ft by 4.3 ft and weighing 71 kg has been installed by the Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB).

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor said that Charkha symbolizes Mahatma Gandhi's idea of Self-Reliance and its installation at Srinagar Airport on Republic Day is a befitting tribute to Babu and to all the great freedom fighters of India.

"Charkha was made a symbol of economic self-reliance by Babu in 1918 and became an important part of Swadeshi and Indian Independence movement like Non-violence, Satyagraha and Civil Disobedience", he added.

Terming the occasion as historic, the Lt Governor said that the Charkha at Srinagar airport will inspire us to encourage greater public participation in the development framework of the UT and to meet the needs of the people by optimally utilizing our social capital and other resources.

"Today, when our country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and moving steadily towards the fourth industrial revolution, I believe Charkha

will serve as a symbol of Atma Nirbhar Bharat campaign of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and will inspire the citizens of the UT and all countrymen to work towards building a self-reliant J&K, and a self-reliant India", the Lt Governor remarked.

The Lt Governor observed that J&K is making great strides in fulfilling the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat and keeping with this spirit, continuous efforts are being made for the revival and conservation of Khadi, Rural Arts & Crafts, besides expanding their reach to the international market.

Prime Minister's slogan - 'Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion'- has gained greater popularity and now international designers are using Khadi in New York and London fashion shows, he further added.

The Lt Governor also called for collaborative efforts to preserve the identity of the world-famous handicrafts, art and culture of Jammu and Kashmir, on the occasion.

Highlighting the initiatives taken by J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) to create livelihood generation opportunities for the people of the UT, the Lt Governor said that in the last three years, 11,978 units have been established under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program and 1,803 units have been established under the Rural Employment Generation Program, besides 4,904 units have also been established for the deprived sections and women.

"Under all these schemes, about 1,50,000 people have been provided with viable employment opportunities", he noted.

The Lt Governor congratulated Dr Hina Bhatt, Vice-Chairperson, Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board, and the members and officials of KVIB on this historic occasion.

Muslims Help In Funeral Of Kashmiri Pandit Man In Ganderbal

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid the Covid-19 third wave, Muslims performed last rites of a Kashmiri Pandit who passed away in Watalbagh Ganderbal locality of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Wednesday.

A Kashmiri pandit Mohan Krishna Matoo, 72, breathed his last at SKIMS Soura in the wee hours plunging the whole locality in mourning, eyewitnesses said.

Soon after the news of Matoo's death spread, local Muslims made special arrangements in performing his last rites. They also ferried firewood to help the

family to cremate the deceased.

"It is our duty to help neighbours irrespective of their religion," Shahbaz, a local resident, said.

"He passed away in the morning. Keeping social distancing norms in mind, the local Muslims visited the bereaved family one by one and expressed their condolences," Aijaz said.

In Ganderbal locality around a dozen Pandit families are residing who did not migrate from Kashmir valley during the peak of militancy in 1990's, instead decided to stay put. Since then the two communities have been living in the locality in bonhomie—(KNO)

Two-Way Traffic Resumes On Banihal Highway

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir valley with the outside world, shall remain open for two-way traffic on Thursday, first time in more than a fortnight, officials said.

"On 27-01-2022, subject to fair weather and better road conditions LMVs(passenger)/private cars shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar highway viz Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa," a traffic department official said in a statement to GNS. He said Traffic Control Unit Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic, he said.

He said cut off for LMVs/private cars from Nagrota (Jammu) will be at 0800 hours to 1200 hours, from Jakheni (Udhampur) at 0900 hours to 1300 hours and from Navyug Tunnel (Qazigund side) 0900 hours to 1300 hours "(subject to change depending

on the road position then)"

He said no vehicle shall be allowed before and after cut off timings.

Regarding HMVs/Load carriers, he said, "subject to fair weather and better road conditions, they shall be allowed from NAVYUG Tunnel (Qazigund side) towards Jammu after assessing the traffic situation on highway." He said TCU Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the highway.

Meanwhile, Mughal Road, connecting Shopian with Poonch and Rajouri districts, remained closed for vehicular movement in view of snow accumulation at Peer Ki Gali. Also, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road remained shut for vehicular movement in view of snow accumulation on Zoji la axis and has been closed till further orders. Kishtwar-Sinthan road also remained closed in view of snow accumulation, the traffic department official said. (GNS)



SECURITY PERSONNEL maintained tight vigil on Wednesday in Srinagar to ensure peaceful conduct of R-day.

Pic: Abid Bhat/KO

Advisor Bhatnagar Unfurls Tricolor At SKCC Srinagar

'These Are Historic Times For J&K As It Is Seeing A New Dawn'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Wednesday unfurled tricolor on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day at the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium here.

After unfurling the flag, the Advisor inspected the parade and took the salute from the contingents of JKP, BSF, CRPF, JKAP, SSB, ITBP, IRP, Women contingent, Forest Protection Force and NCC.

In his address, Advisor Bhatnagar extended the warm greetings of 73rd Republic Day to the people of Jammu & Kashmir and remarked that we are able to live in this unique country as a democratic nation only because seven decades ago on this day, our Constitution came into effect and we embarked on our journey as a Republic Nation.

Highlighting about the significance of constitution in his address, the Advisor said that the doctrine of our constitution has laid the foundation of modern India we are currently living in. "Our founding fathers and visionary leaders brought together a diversity of views on a single platform to forge a common national spirit by drafting and enacting this unique constitution which has been imbibed from generation to generation", Advisor Bhatnagar said.

He added that this day marks the celebration of the empowerment of Indian citizens to select their own government which shaped the identity of our country as a modern nation.

The Advisor remarked that these are historic times for Jammu and Kashmir as it is seeing a new dawn. A dawn which promises hope, a dawn which will bring prosperity, a dawn which will lead to progress and development, a dawn which will usher J&K towards peace and the best way to overcome misgivings is to reaffirm our commitment to abide by the values of our Republic. He added that Jammu and Kashmir has always been an integral part of the ethos and culture of India in each and every respect embracing every religion and ev-



ery tradition of varied cultures. And this peaceful co-existence here has reflected in the lives of the inhabitants of this beautiful land.

While applauding the exemplary services of doctors, paramedics, frontline workers during the ongoing pandemic, Advisor Bhatnagar said that the whole world is confronting a deadly virus which has disrupted all activities and taken a huge toll on the lives of people.

"We must be indebted to our doctors, nurses and other health workers who have been continuously on the forefront of our fight against this virus. Unfortunately, many of our own health workers have lost their lives battling this pandemic. They are our national heroes. All Corona Warriors deserve high praise and appreciation. They go much beyond their call of duty to save lives and ensure essential services", the Advisor said. The Advisors added that doctors, health workers, members of Disaster Management Teams, police personnel, sanitation workers, service providers, government employees, social service organizations and generous citizens have been scripting inspiring stories of courage and selfless service during this pandemic who risk their own lives to save our life and livelihood.

Highlighting about the achievements of present administration, Advisor Bhatnagar said that after the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19 pandemic, the government has amplified the medical infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir to safeguard the lives of our people and also to provide them best possible medical care. "Our UT

of J&K has fared exceptionally well in the Covid Management as No bed or Oxygen shortage was faced during the two waves of Covid 19 Pandemic. 100% administration of 1st dose of covid vaccine to the eligible population above 18 years has been achieved and the vaccination of the age group 15-18 is going on", the Advisor said.

The Advisor added that third wave of Covid is under control here and we need to be careful and follow COVID SOPs religiously. He also said that the PM-JAY SEHAT insurance scheme has been very successful across J&K which provides health insurance cover upto Rs 5.00 lakh per family on floater basis. "218 hospitals are empanelled in the UT of J&K under this scheme and the benefits of the scheme are also portable across the country through a network of about 24000 hospitals. As of now, 60 lakh Golden cards have been generated and 16.36 lakhs (80%) families have been registered under PM-JAY and AB-PM-JAY-SEHAT Schemes", he said.

Asserting that the medical infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir is being amplified, Advisor Bhatnagar said that more than 400 Health Infrastructure Projects/works worth Rs. 7177 Crores are being initiated here. Work on two new AIIMS with the project Cost of Rs 4000 Cr (Rs. 2000 Cr each) one each at Jammu Division & Kashmir Division is also going on smoothly, seven new Government Medical Colleges, Ten new Nursing Colleges and two Cancer Institutes, one each at Jammu and Kashmir Division are established here to provide best possible medical care to people.

Denied Permission For Attending R-Day Function, Allege LAHDC Leh Councillors

Inquiry Initiated, Two Cops Attached To DPL Leh, Act Evokes Massive Resentment

Agencies

LEH: Expressing serious resentment and anger, the Councillors of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh Wednesday alleged that they were denied permission for attending the Republic Day function held at Polo Ground, Leh for no reasons. However, the chairman of the Council said that the matter is being investigated and officials are verifying the circumstances.

The main function of Republic Day in Leh as per officials was held at Polo Ground. Talking to reporters, the Councillors while identifying themselves as part of the ruling BJP, Opposition, and Independent, said that they were not allowed to enter the Republic Day main function at Leh and it has angered them since they were not given respect.

They said that the council will celebrate the forthcoming 15th August separately since the Indian flag deserves a huge amount of respect. "This move is aimed to dam-

age the Council. We strongly condemn this act," the angry Councillors said.

They demanded an answer from the Lieutenant governor of Ladakh saying that as to why anything such happened to them.

Meanwhile, reacting to the allegations, the Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) Leh Advocate Tashi Gyalson while terming it unfortunate said that the matter has come to their knowledge as well. "The matter will be investigated and the reason that led to this incident will face strict action and the same has been assured by the lieutenant governor as well," CEC said.

He said they have talked to Lieutenant Governor, ADGP, and Advisor besides the SSP has gone to the residence of Councillors to talk to them.

To a query, the CEC said that it is important to hear both parties including the Councillors and another end as well and terming it a deliberate move.

He further said that they have asked for a proper investigation into the matter.

Meanwhile, Morup Dorjay one of the Councillor, part of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who was denied permission said that the highest institution in the region is the Hill Council. "We had received the invitation cards for the function. We had come together in an official vehicle. All of us were denied permission for around 15 minutes, we were made to stand there," he said.

Later, he said police and other officials approached them and asked them to enter the venue but "all of us anonymously rejected their request since all of us are public representatives."

"It's a bureaucratic rule and seems like a colonial era," he alleged. He informed a high-level inquiry has been initiated in this regard by the lieutenant governor's office to ascertain the circumstances.

According to an order issued by ADGP Ladakh Police, two policemen including Tswang Paljor (SI) and Abdul Gani (CT) have been attached to DPL Leh with immediate effect against pending inquiry.—(KNO)

Militancy Incidents Down, Recruitment Up In Pulwama: Army

Agencies

SRINAGAR: General officer Commanding (GoC) of Srinagar-based army's 15 Corps Lieutenant General D P Pandey Wednesday said that southern district of Pulwama has indeed shown a decline in militancy related incidents but the district continues to see local militant recruitment on the rise.

He said that in the ensuing year, the army believes that Pulwama will see further dip in local militant recruitment.

The GoC was on a visit to southern districts of Shopian and Pulwama on the eve of 73rd Republic Day. He met senior citizens and traders in these twin districts of South Kashmir.

Talking to media persons at Shopian, the GoC said that people of Kashmir want peace and not militancy. "Militancy related incidents are declining and we believe they will further go down in the ongoing year," he said.

The army officer said that if the number of militants and militancy related incidents decline, it will provide more opportunities to local youth to make their future.

"Time has come when people have to choose the path of peace and stability," he said, adding that the people of South Kashmir



like those of north Kashmir have realized the effects of militancy.

The GoC said that wrong narrative is being taught to children and wherever it happens, youth are bound to choose wrong path "as it is easy way out and just a glamour."

"Youth are picking guns because of unemployment but wrong path is being shown to them," Pandey said. He said that the situation was getting better as people, especially youth have understood that taking the path of militancy was wrong.

He said that militancy related incidents have declined in Pulwama but "local militant recruitment continues to be on the rise." "We believe this (local militant recruitment) will also go down in the ongoing area," the GoC said and sought people's cooperating in bring peace and development in southern districts of Kashmir—(KNO)

Army Unfurls Tallest Tricolor In Shopian

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Army on Wednesday dedicated to people a 150-feet-high flagpole in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir to mark the Republic Day celebrations, a defence spokesman said.

He said it will be the tallest flagpole in the union territory.

"On the occasion of the 73rd Republic Day, the Chinara Corps in collaboration with Punit Balan Group installed a 150-feet-high mast National Flag in the historic town of Shopian," the spokesman said.

He said installing the highest flagpole ushered in a new milestone in the history of south Kashmir.

The second tallest flagpole is also located in Shopian district, the spokesman added.

"The foundation stone was laid on 18 October 2021 at Army Goodwill School, Balapur in a

colorful event and the flagpole was dedicated to the people of Shopian by Lt Gen D P Pandey, GOC Chinara Corps," he said.

The inauguration ceremony commenced with the unfurling of the national flag by the GOC Chinara Corps and the singing of the national anthem by the students of Army Goodwill School, Balapur. A drill by cadets of 1st J-K NCC Battalion, Srinagar showcased the pride of the local youth associated with the tricolor, the spokesman said.

Lt Gen Pandey said, "The national flag is the greatest symbol of our national conscience as it represents the supreme collective expression of our commitment and loyalty to our motherland.

He congratulated the efforts of the civil administration, citizens of Shopian and the security forces for striving for peace and progress in south Kashmir, the spokesman said.

Unknown Man Killed, SPO Wounded In Train Accident

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An unidentified person was killed and a special police officer (SPO) critically wounded in a train accident at Kakapora area of Pulwama district on Wednesday.

An official said that an unidentified man was hit by the speedy train who died on the

spot at Kakapora on Wednesday. An SPO identified as Shabir Ahmed, while trying to save the unidentified man, was also hit and critically wounded.

"The injured SPO was critically wounded and is being treated at SMHS hospital," a doctor said, adding that his condition is very bad—(KNO)

105 ASHA Functionaries Felicitated For Noteworthy Performance

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Health Mission, J&K awarded the 105 best functionaries of ASHA Programme in J&K on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day celebration.

The awards were presented to ASHAs, ASHA Facilitators, Block ASHA Coordinators, District ASHA Coordinators, State Trainers and Block/ District Programme Management Units in recognition of their contribution to make ASHA programme successful in the Union Territory.

In each district, District Development Commissioner handed over the Appreciation Certificates and cash reward worth Rs. 5000 to each selected functionary.

Congratulating the winner, Yasve Choudhary, MD, NHM J&K said, "ASHA functionaries form a vital link between the Health Department and the people. This recognition is a token of appreciation for their valuable contribution in implementing all health schemes at the grass root level. We select-

ed 2 ASHAs per District, 2 ASHA Facilitators per Division, 3 Block ASHA Coordinators per Division, 1 District ASHA Coordinator per Division and 1 State ASHA Trainer per Division based on their performance. In addition, 1 District Programme Manager, 1 District Accounts Manager and 1 District Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, 2 Block Monitoring Evaluation Officers and 2 Block Accounts Managers per Division have also been selected for awards based on their performance. I congratulate all the winners for their achievement."

He further added, considering the role of ASHA functionaries in healthcare delivery at the ground level and specially during COVID-19 pandemic, Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education, J&K decided to start this award to recognize the best performers.

At present, about 13000 ASHAs and ASHA Cadres are functional in Jammu & Kashmir.

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